(b) if so, the details regarding the total production and the profit earned during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to disinvest the National Fertilizer Company; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been providing fertilizer nutrients to the agriculture sector at the uniform statutory sale price fixed by the Government and is generating profits since its inception. The details of the urea produced and profit earned by the company during the last three years are given below:—

(*Rs. Crore*)

Year	Urea Production (in lakh Metric Tonnes)	Profit earned
1999-2000	31.37	34.89
2000-2001	29.36	27.31
2001-2002	31.91	40.61

(c) The Disinvestment Commission has categorized the fertilizer sector as 'non-core' and recommended to disinvest 51% of total equity out of GOI held equity in the company.

Closure of Barauni Fertilizer Plant

†1081. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have decided to finally close down the only fertilizer factory at Barauni in Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this decision;

(c) the suggestions given by the committees set up to improve the situation of the factory during the years 1986 and 2002 and whether Government have considered these suggestions;

(d) if so, what is the justification for closing the factory; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons for not considering the suggestions?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The Government have decided to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. including the Barauni unit as the same has not been found techno-economically viable.

Losses in public sector fertilizer units

†1082. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of losses in a number of public and private sector chemical fertilizer producing units, due to reduction of subsidy after implementation of the New Fertilizer Policy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the estimated annual losses in public sector fertilizer producing units, after implementation of the new policy; and

(c) to what extent the amount of said losses would be more, as compared to the amount of current losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Government is in the process of formulation of new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission for replacing the existing Retention Price Scheme. Government does not expect the urea producing units to incur losses on implementation of new pricing policy. They may incur losses due to their own inefficiencies.

Production of polymers

1083. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FRETILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Polymers in the country during the last three years, State-wise, including Gujarat;

(b) the details of proposals under consideration for development of Polymers for multiple use, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to identify new areas in public/private sectors where the use of Polymers can play a vital role; and